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LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of 12 November 1991 concerning the utilization by the coalition forces of thousands of bombs based on depleted uranium against the Iraqi forces. Many Arab and foreign newspapers have published documented information on this subject, including the British weekly The Independent on Sunday in its issue of 10 November 1991, The New York Times, in its issue of 21 January 1993, and the London-published newspaper Al Quds, of 16 March 1993. In this connection, the Egyptian press agency Middle Eastern News, quoting an authorized Kuwaiti source in the Ministry of Health, reported on 30 November 1993 that "radiation has been detected coming from Iraqi military equipment left by the Iraqi army near the Ali Assalem air base, not far from Kuwait ... and [that] the Ministry of Defence has requested the Radiological Protection Committee of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health to analyse that equipment, following the establishment of the existence of nuclear radiation coming from it, and has suggested the possibility that the radiation in question was from uranium or other radioactive metals resulting from the bombing directed against the equipment in question".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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